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New FSSAI Guidelines for Labeling and Customs Procedures

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety
Policy and Program Announcements
FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

New Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines allow a sticker for the FSSAI license number and logo to be applied as a “rectifiable label” at the port of entry. The guidelines also outline procedures for importing intermediary food products that have not received product approval. Although not notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the new sticker labeling requirement will be in effect on July 1, 2014.

Executive Summary:

Effective July 1, 2014, the new Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines in respect of the Food Import Clearance System (FICS) allow a sticker for the FSSAI license number and logo to be applied at the port of entry as a “rectifiable label.” All other labeling requirements must comply with [FSS \(Packaging and Labeling\) Regulations 2011](#) prior to reaching customs. The new guidelines also outline procedures for importing intermediary food products that have not received product approval.

General Information:

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and, therefore, should not under any circumstances be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural trade interests.

On February 6, 2014, FSSAI published the *General Guidelines in Respect of the FSSAI Food Import Clearance System (FICS)*. The document was published to further clarify the FICS for authorized officers (AOs) who work at the port of entry. The major highlights are:

- (a) The new guidelines clarify that from July 1, 2014, sticker for the FSSAI license number and logo can be applied at the port of entry as a “rectifiable label.” Before July 1, 2014, sticker will not be accepted for this item. All other labeling requirements must comply with [FSS \(Packaging and Labeling\) Regulations 2011](#) prior to reaching customs.
- (b) The new guidelines outline procedures for importing intermediary food products that have not received product approval.
- (c) For food products exhibited at trade fairs or similar marketing functions that have not been approved by Indian authorities, at the port of entry an affidavit must be presented that states the product will be destroyed or re-exported after the event.

The *General Guidelines in Respect of the FSSAI Food Import Clearance System (FICS)* supplements a previous draft publication entitled *Manual on the Food Import Clearance System* ([IN3128](#)). This draft manual contains processes, documentation, and other requirements that explain Indian customs procedures. Moreover, it describes the role and responsibilities of importers, custom house agents, food testing laboratories, and FSSAI AOs. FSSAI also published a document describing the FICS process, which is located at the bottom of this report.

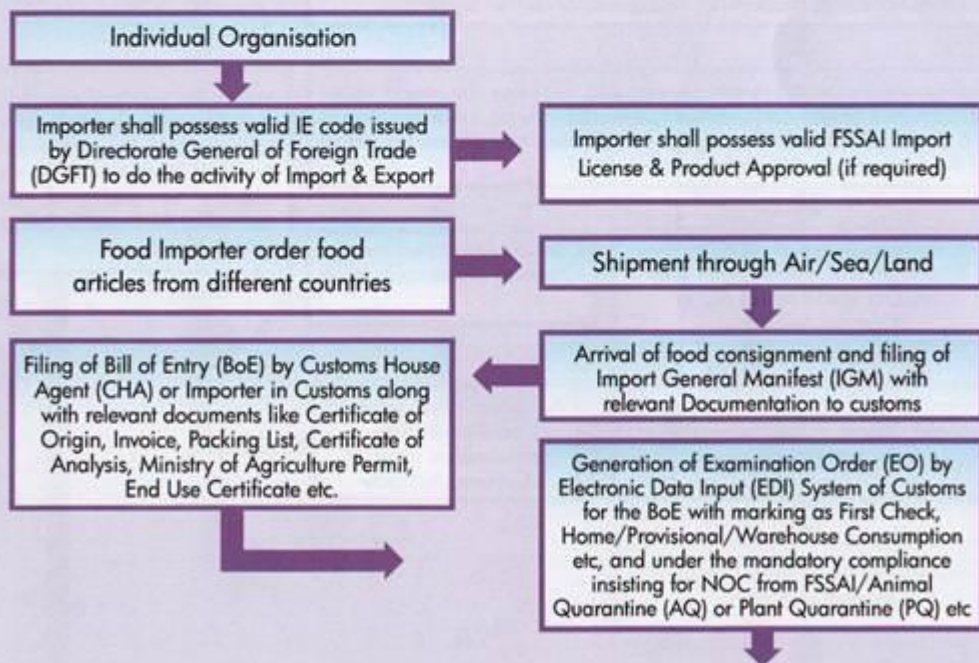
The table of contents for the *General Guidelines in Respect of the FSSAI Food Import Clearance System (FICS)* includes these subheadings:

- Review of Documents
- Visual Inspection of Consignments
- Sampling and Dispatch of Samples to Laboratories
- Laboratory Related Functions

- Issue/Non-Issue of NOC/NCC
- Appeals against Rejections
- Activities where Product Approval is Involved
- Issue Relating to Re-imported Food Product

The complete [Guidelines](http://www.fssai.gov.in/) can be accessed at FSSAI's website <http://www.fssai.gov.in/>.

Food Import Clearance Process



Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, Next to Bal Bhawan, New Delhi-110002

Website: fssai.gov.in Toll Free No. 1800 11 2100

fssai

Contact Details for Import Process

Authorised Officers:

S.No.	Name of authorised officer	Port	Address	Ph. No./Fax/E-mail
1	Dr. G. Srinivasan	Chennai Sea Port and Airport	Food Safety & Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India C-1-D, Rajaji Bhawan, Besant Nagar, Chennai-600090	Telefax.: 044-24463569 aochennai@fssai.gov.in
2	Sh. Ais Kumar	Kolkata Sea Port and Airport	4th Floor, Mayukh Bhawan, Salt Lake, Eastern Region Kolkata-700091	Ph.: 033-23585625, 23580391 E-mail: aokolkata@fssai.gov.in
3	Sh. D.P. Guha	JNPT Nhava Sheva	902, Hallmark Business Plaza, Sant Dyaneshwar Marg, Opp. Gurunanak Hospital Road, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051	Tel: 022-22617672/ 26420961 022-27470708 E-mail: aomumbai@fssai.gov.in, fssai_jnpt@yahoo.com
4	Sh. D.P. Guha	Mumbai Sea Port and Airport	3rd Floor, New Hamallage Building, Food Safety & Standards Authority of India, Indira Dock, Yellow Gate, Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai - 400001.	Telefax: 022-22617672, 27470708, 26817995 (Air) and 22061607 (Sea) E-mail: aomumbai@fssai.gov.in, airportfssai@gmail.com, seaportfssai@gmail.com

Contact Details for Import Process

Authorised Officers:

S.No.	Name of authorised officer	Port	Address	Ph. No./Fax/E-mail
5	Sh. Anil Mehta	Delhi (Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, CONCOR-ICD, Tuglakabad and CWC-ICD, Patparganj)	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ground Floor, CHEB Building (Near FDA Bhawan) Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002	Ph.: 011-23215024 E-mail: aodelhi@fssai.gov.in
6	Sh. S.V. Thampy	Authorised Officer (Cochin Sea Port & Airport)	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Regional Office-Southern Region, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, First Floor, Marine Building, North End P.O., Willingdon Island, Cochin-682003. Kerala	Ph.: 0484-2666256 M.: 09496440787 E-mail: aocochin@fssai.gov.in Svtannan74@yahoo.com



Surakshit Aahar Swasthya Ka Aadhar